NUMB. CCCCXCII.

The SPECTATOR.

Quicquid eſt boni moris Levitate extinguitur. Sen.

Wedneſday, September 24. 1712.

Dear Mr. SPECTATOR, *Tunbridge, Sept.* 18.

I Am a young Woman of Eighteen Years of Age, and, I do aſſure you, a Maid of unſpotted Reputation, founded upon a very careful Carriage in all my Looks, Words, and Actions. At the ſame time I muſt own to you, that it is with much Conſtraint to Fleſh and Blood that my Behaviour is ſo ſtrictly irreproachable; for I am naturally addicted to Mirth, to Gayety, to a free Air, to Motion, and Gadding. Now what gives me a great deal of Anxiety, and is ſome Diſcouragement in the Purſuit of Virtue, is, that the young Women who run into greater Freedoms with the Men are more taken Notice of than I am. The Men are ſuch unthinking Sots, that they do not prefer her who reſtrains all her Paſſions and Affections, and keeps much within the Bounds of what is lawful, to her who goes to the utmoſt Verge of Innocence, and parlies at the very Brink of Vice, whether ſhe ſhall be a Wife or a Miſtreſs. But I muſt appeal to your Spectatorial Wiſdom, who, I find, have paſſed very much of your Time in the Study of Woman, whether this is not a moſt unreaſonable Proceeding. I have read ſomewhere, that *Hobbes* of *Malmeſbury* aſſerts, That continent Perſons have more of what they contain, than thoſe who give a Looſe to their Deſires. According to this Rule, let there be equal Age, equal Wit, and equal good Humour, in the Woman of Prudence, and her of Liberty: What Stores has he to expect who takes the former? What Refuſe muſt he be contented with who chuſes the latter? Well, but I ſate down to write to you to vent my Indignation againſt ſeveral pert Creatures who are addreſs'd to and courted in this Place, while poor I, and two or three like me, are wholly unregarded.

Every one of theſe affect gaining the Hearts of your Sex: This is generally attempted by a particular Manner of carrying themſelves with Familiarity. *Glycera* has a dancing Walk, and keeps Time in her ordinary Gate. *Chloe*, her Siſter, who is unwilling to interrupt her Conqueſts, comes into the Room before her with a familiar Run. *Dulciſſa* takes Advantage of the Approach of the Winter, and has introduced a very pretty Shiver, cloſing up her Shoulders, and ſhrinking as ſhe moves. All that are in this Mode carry their Fans between both Hands before them. *Dulciſſa* herſelf, who is Author of this Air, adds the pretty Run to it; and has alſo, when ſhe is in very good Humour, a taking Familiarity in throwing her ſelf into the loweſt Seat in the Room, and letting her hoop'd Petticoats fall with a lucky Decency about her. I know ſhe practiſes this Way of ſitting down in her Chamber; and indeed ſhe does it as well as you may have ſeen an Actreſs fall down dead in a Tragedy: Not the leaſt Indecency in her Poſture. If you have obſerv'd what pretty Careſſes are carry'd off at the End of a Verſe at the Theatre, it will give you a Notion how *Dulciſſa* plumps into her Chair. Here's a little Country Girl, that's very cunning, that makes her Uſe of being young and unbred, and outdoes the Inſnarers, who are almoſt twice her Age. The Air that ſhe takes is to come into Company after a Walk, and is very ſucceſsfully out of Breath upon Occaſion. Her Mother is in the Secret, and calls her Romp, and then looks round to ſee what young Men ſtare at her.

It would take up more than can come into one of your Papers, to enumerate all the particular Airs of the younger Company in this Place. But I cannot omit *Dulcorella*, whoſe Manner is the moſt indolent imaginable, but ſtill as watchful of Conqueſt as the buſieſt Virgin among us. She has a peculiar Art of ſtaring at a young Fellow, till ſhe ſees ſhe has got him, and inflames him by

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so much Observation. When she sees she has him, and he begins to toss his Head upon it, she is immediately short-sighted, and labours to observe what he is at a Distance with her Eyes half shut. Thus the Captive that thought her first struck, is so make very near Approaches, or be wholly disregarded. This Artifice has done more Execution than all the Ogling of the rest of the Women here, with the utmost Variety of half Glances, attentive Heedlessnesses, childish Inadvertencies, haughty Contempts, or artificial Oversights. After I have said thus much of Ladies among us who fight thus regularly, I am to compare to you a Set of familiar Romps, who have broken through all common Rules, and have thought of a very effectual Way of shewing more Charms than all of us. These, Mr. SPECTATOR, are the Swingers. You are to know [illegible] Sex's pretty Creatures are very Innocents [illegible]; and it is to be no Matter what they do, [illegible] harmless Freedom. They get on [illegible] you must have seen the Children, and [illegible] their Men Visitants. The Jest is, [illegible] can name the Colour of Mrs. [illegible] Things; and she tells him, he is [illegible] full of Roguery and [illegible] her Sister shall tell the [illegible] and he can't tell what [illegible] are of. In this Diversion [illegible] any pretty Shreaks, not so much [illegible] as that their Petticoats should [illegible] there is great Care had to avoid Im[illegible]; and the Lover who swings the Lady, [illegible] her oaths very close with his Hat band [illegible] she admits him to throw up her Heels.

Now Mr SPECTATOR, except you can note these Wantonnesses in their Beginnings, and bring us sober Girls into Observation, there is no Help for it, we must swim with the Tide, the Coquets are too powerful a Party for us. To look into the Merit of a regular and well-behaved Woman, is a slow thing. A loose trivial Song gains the Affections, when a wise Homily is not attended to. There is no other way but to make War upon them, or we must go over to them. As for my Part, I will shew all the World it is not for want of Charms that I stand so long unasked; and if you do not take Measures for the immediate Redress of us Rigids, as the Fellows call us, I can move with a speaking Mein, can look significantly, can lisp, can trip, can loll, can start, can blush, can rage, can weep, if I must do it, and can be frighted, as agreeably as any She in *England*. All which is humbly submitted to your Spectatorial Consideration with all Humility, by

Your most humble Servant,

Matilda Mohair.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Court of Assistants of the Corporation for making hollow Sword-Blades in England, do hereby give Notice, That a General Court of the Members of the said Corporation will be held at their House in Birchen-Lane, London, on Thursday the 25th Instant, at 10 of the Clock in the Forenoon, on special Affairs; And that the said Court of Assistants will sit at their said House on Wednesday the 8th of October next from 10 to 12 of the Clock in the Forenoon, and from 3 to 5 of the Clock in the Afternoon, to receive the Votes of the Members of the said Corporation for Election of a Governour and Deputy-Governour for the Year ensuing: And that they will sit on Thursday the 9th Day of October next at the same Place and Hours, to receive the Votes of the Members for Election of Assistants of the said Corporation for the Year ensuing. The Scrutiny on such Elections will be made the Evening of the Day of each Election; and that in order to the making out Lists of the Members, and Warrants for a Dividend, the Transfer-Books of the said Corporation will be shut from and after Saturday the 27th Instant till Friday the 10th of October next. Printed Lists of the Members of the said Corporation will be delivered at the said Corporation's House on and after Wednesday the 1st of October next, and the Warrants for the said Dividend on Friday the 10th of the same Month.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow, being Thursday the 25th of September, will be presented a Comedy call'd the Amorous Widow, or the Wanton Wife. The Part of Barnaby Brittle by Mr. Dogget, the Wanton Wife by Mrs. Oldfield, Lovemore by Mr. Wilks, Cunningham by Mr. Mills, Sir Petet Pride by Mr. Johnson, Merryman by Mr. Penkethman, Cloddpole by Mr. Bullock, Jiffrey by Mr. Pack, Thiladelphia by Mrs. Porter, Dametis by Mrs. Bicknell: And on Saturday next will be presented the last new Tragedy call'd The Distrest Mother. By Her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

The Incomparable Powder for cleaning the Teeth, which has given so great Satisfaction to most of the Nobility and Gentry in England. Sold only at Mr. Halsey's, Bookseller, at the Plow and Harrow near the Royal Exchange Cornhill; and at Mr. Markham's Toy-shop at the 3 Stars under St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet-street. It at once using makes the Teeth as white as Ivory, tho never so Black or Yellow, and effectually preserves them from Rotting or Decaying, continuing them Sound to exceeding Old Age. It wonderfully cures the Scurvy in the Gums, prevents Rheum or Defluxions, kills Worms at the Roots of the Teeth, and thereby hinders the Tooth Ach. It admirably fastens loose Teeth, being a neat cleanly Medicine, of a pleasant and grateful Scent. Price 1 s. the Box. At the same Place is sold, the highly esteem'd Lip salve for Ladies, &c. of a charming and delightful Scent. Price 1 s. the Box.

The Vapours in Women infallibly Cured in an Instant, so as never to return Again, by an admirable Chymical Secret, a few drops of which takes off a Fit in a Moment, dispels Sadness, clears the Head, takes away all Swimming, Giddiness, Dimness of Sight, Flushings in the Face, &c. to a Miracle, and most certainly prevents the Vapours returning again for ever by Rooting out the very Cause, it perfectly cures, as Hundreds have experienc'd: It also Strengthens the Stomach and Bowels, and causes Liveliness and settled Health. To be sold only at Mr. Osborn's, Toy-shop, at the Role and Crown under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions. Beware of Counterfeits at other Places.

Instant Cure for Diseases of the Nerves, whether Palsical, Convulsive, Trembling, Contractions, Relaxations, Weakness, Numbness, Coldness, or the like, by a Cephalick Tincture, whose Effects are really wonderful, not to be believ'd, but by those that have taken it, be the Disease from whatever Cause, or seated in any particular Part, as Head, Back, Limbs, or whole Body. To be had for 3 s. 6 d. the Bottle with Directions, at the Golden Key in Warton's Court near Holborn-Bars.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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